



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

Sept. 11, 2014

For More Information, Contact:

Michelle Feist

Division of Disease Control

North Dakota Department of Health

Phone: 701.328.2378

E-mail: [mafeist@nd.gov](mailto:mafeist@nd.gov)

### **Rabid Kitten Part of a Litter of Stray Kittens Found in Minot**

Minot, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health and the State Veterinarian's Office are alerting the public that the rabid kitten identified in Minot was from a litter of six kittens that was found as strays around the 600 block on 10<sup>th</sup> Ave SE in Minot. The other five kittens in the litter have been located and have tested negative for rabies.

The rabid kitten was a brown long-haired tabby (striped) male that was approximately eight weeks old. Any individuals who may have been bitten, scratched or licked by this kitten from August 22 through August 29, 2014, are asked to call the North Dakota Department of Health at 701.328.2378.

Additionally, the North Dakota Department of Health reminds people that anytime they are bitten or scratched by a cat or any other animal, especially if it is a stray, they should contact their healthcare provider. In general, to reduce your risk of rabies transmission, people should avoid approaching, feeding and handling all stray and wild animals.

Rabies is a viral infection that affects mammals, including people. It can be transmitted through bites and saliva exposure to open cuts and wounds or saliva contact with mucous membranes, such as the eyes or mouth. The virus causes swelling of the brain and is almost always fatal. Rabies can be prevented by administering rabies vaccine after exposure.

The original news release regarding the rabid kitten can be viewed at [www.ndhan.gov/media/news/](http://www.ndhan.gov/media/news/).

For more information, the media may call Michelle Feist, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2378. For anyone with questions regarding other pets or animal exposures to these kittens, please contact Dr. Beth Carlson at 701.328.2653.

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600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 301, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0200  
Phone: 701.328.2378 Fax: 701.328.2499 E-mail: [health@nd.gov](mailto:health@nd.gov)

*Visit the health department home page at [www.ndhealth.gov](http://www.ndhealth.gov).*